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FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

6 MARCH 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Tehran radio claimed further successes in the Al-Faw area, stating that Iranian forces killed over 400 Iraqis and wounded at least 800 others in a battle during the night of 5 March. Earlier, Iranian naval forces sank an Iraqi warship in the Khawr 'Abdallah, while Iranian artillery began shelling the Iraqi airbase at Al-Shu'aybah, southwest of Basra, according to the radio. For Iraq's part, a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio stated that Iraqi planes raided the Ganaveh oil terminal and destroyed five Iranian boats in the northern part of the Gulf. Iraq also downed an Iranian F-4 over the Al-Faw area, according to a military spokesman cited by INA.

In the Gulf, Abu Dhabi radio reported another air attack on a tanker off the coast of Qatar, disclosing that four sailors were killed when a helicopter launched missiles at a Cypriot tanker early 6 March. The radio said Iran is thought to be responsible for the attack, which took place the same day that Tehran radio's Arabic service broadcast a sharp warning about Iran's intention to attack any "Gulf location" assisting Iraq. Citing the Iranian paper *KEYHAN AL-'ARABI*, the radio said that "Gulf and international circles" should take "very seriously" Iranian warnings that any Gulf location that exports oil or acts in the service of Iraq will be a "legitimate target" for Iran.

In another Gulf development, the UAE paper *AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I* reported that a Kuwaiti citizen was killed when Kuwaiti fishing boats were attacked by two unidentified aircraft the night of 5 March, according to WAM. The Kuwaiti defense minister emphasized earlier in a statement reported by KUNA that Kuwait's Armed Forces have been given clear instructions to open fire if Kuwaiti borders and waters are violated. Meanwhile, the GCC chiefs of staff concluded talks in Riyadh during which they discussed the military situation in the Gulf, GCC defense capabilities, and coordination between GCC states, SPA noted. Another SPA report detailed a 5 March inspection tour by the Saudi deputy defense and aviation minister, who reviewed Saudi Army and Air Force units in the eastern region and presided over a high-level military meeting at the regional command center.

In a separate development, King Husayn reaffirmed Jordan's support for Iraq during talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in Baghdad, INA reported. Amman television broadcast a cable from King Husayn to the Iraqi leader in which the king predicted that the Iraqi Army will shortly achieve "new glory" by achieving a clear victory in the battles against Iranian forces in southern and northern Iraq.

Lebanon

The Islamic Jihad organization announced the execution of one of its four French hostages in a statement reported by Voice of Lebanon radio, asserting that researcher Michel Seurat was killed because he had provided France with information on the Middle East and on Islamic Movements. The French external relations minister subsequently noted that France has "no confirmation" of Seurat's execution, according to AFP.

In a separate development, Radio Monte Carlo reported that Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam discussed a "new national plan" for Lebanon during talks in Damascus with a number of Lebanese leaders, including Walid Junblatt, Nabih Birri, and Elie Hubayqah.

Egypt

Interior Minister Zaki Badr has told the weekly *AL-MUSAWWAR* that the police will resume their regular security role in the streets by 6 March, MENA reported. He maintained that the recent riots by police conscripts could not have happened without "premeditation."

PLO

Reporting on the current PLO meetings in Tunis, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio said the Palestinian leadership is determined to maintain good relations with Jordan because the differences over UN Security Council Resolution 242 are with the United States, not with Jordan. Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat repudiated a statement on Jordan made by PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, Radio Monte Carlo noted. Al-Rahman had accused Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i of influencing King Husayn against the PLO.

Syria-Turkey

Syria and Turkey have agreed to turn their 900-km common border into a boundary of "friendship and brotherhood," Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal stated in remarks reported by Ankara radio following his talks with visiting Syrian Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm. The two sides signed several cooperation agreements and Ozal spoke of "great and concrete steps" to develop bilateral relations, according to the radio. A press statement on the visit broadcast by Damascus radio likewise welcomed the "new beginning" in Syrian-Turkish relations.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

South Asia

CONTENTS

Vol VIII No 044 *6 March 1986*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

PRC Media Continues 'Mendacious Propaganda' ..... C 1- 3
Security Forces Crush Rebels, Capture Weapons ..... C 1- 3

BANGLADESH

Ershad Postpones Official Visit to Thailand *[AFP]* ..... D 1- 4
Further Reportage on Upcoming Elections ..... D 1- 4
Commission Appoints Officers ..... D 1- 4
Opposition Calls Strike *[AFP]* ..... D 1- 4
Opposition To Join if No Martial Law *[AFP]* ..... D 1- 4
PRC President Li Xiannian To Arrive 8 March ..... D 1- 4

INDIA

Police Clash With Student Demonstrators in Jammu ..... E 1- 5
ROK Prime Minister Ends Visit, Leaves for Australia ..... E 1- 5
70,000 Congress-I Members Detained in West Bengal *[AFP]* ..... E 1- 5
Proposal To Ask Sri Lanka on Refugee Data Examined ..... E 1- 5

PAKISTAN

Ziaul Haq Discusses Internal Situation, Kashmir ..... F 1- 6
Yaqub Khan Addresses Senate on Adjournment Motion ..... F 1- 6
Interior Minister Assures Protection of Minorities ..... F 2- 7
Two Killed in Bomb Explosion Near Afghan Border ..... F 2- 7

OTHER COUNTRIES

SRI LANKA

Diplomats in Delhi Support Colombo Statement ..... G 1- 8
Security Forces Launch Operations Against 'Terrorists' ..... G 1- 8
Recover Arms, Ammunition ..... G 1- 8
7 'Terrorists' Captured ..... G 1- 8
1 'Terrorist' Killed ..... G 1- 8
2 Killed, 3 Injured in Mine Explosion 3 Mar ..... G 1- 8
Terrorist Incidents of 2-3 Mar Reported ..... G 1- 8
Tamils Reportedly Abduct Over 125 Village Officials *[AFP]* ..... G 2- 9

IRAN

Imam Khomeyni Meets With Ayatollah Montazeri ..... I 1-10
Musavi Criticizes GCC on Oil Issue, Support for Iraq ..... I 1-10
Kuwait Diplomat Denies Giving Aid to Iraq ..... I 1-10
Velayati Receives Libyan Charge for Talks ..... I 1-10
FRG Parliamentarian Stercken Departs Tehran ..... I 1-10
Gulf Ports Exporting for Iraq 'Legitimate Targets' ..... I 2-11
JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Views GCC Statement on War ..... I 2-11
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq ..... I 3-12
Iraqi Ship Sunk ..... I 3-12

Iraqi Wounded Treated in Kuwait ..... I 3-12
Communique No 2400 ..... I 3-12
More Volunteers Sent to Fronts ..... I 4-13
'Important Leaders' Killed ..... I 4-13
Sitak Garrison Destroyed ..... I 4-13
Commentary on Iraq's 'Crimes' Against Kurds ..... I 4-13
Free Voice Claims Relations With Syria Strained ..... I 5-14
Mujahidin Operations in Northern Afghanistan Noted ..... I 5-14
Correction to Iravani Meets SFRY's Vlajkovic ..... I 5-14

PRC Media Continues 'Mendacious Propaganda'

LD060726 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 6 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, March 5, BAKHTAR: A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

The mass media of People's Republic of China do not desist from carrying on its mendacious propaganda against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, DRA. Lately, a circulation of false rumours has been immensely expanded about the situation in the DRA. In this anti-Afghan propaganda campaign it is endeavouring to cast a shadow on Afghan-Soviet relations.

The mass media of China is trying to prove as if the Soviet Union has trampled upon the independence of a Moslem and non-aligned state and intervenes in the domestic affairs of Afghanistan.

[Words indistinct] intervention from abroad takes place into the internal affairs of Afghanistan. It is since seven years that an extensive undeclared war has been unleashed against the DRA. The original organisers of the undeclared war are the United States, NATO members and reactionary regimes and the regimes which are the stooges of the U.S. Administration.

Unfortunately, the People's Republic of China is also among the forces which are striving to suppress the process of revolutionary changes in Afghanistan and hampering democratisation and advancement of social life.

China is not only in the rank of aggressive forces but it also takes an active part in the interventionist operations against independent and non-aligned Afghanistan.

China does not conceal its territorial claims on the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

The original lands of Afghanistan are proclaimed in China as its lost territory. The eighty kilometres long border of Afghanistan with China has been converted to a bridgehead for sending murderous bands to Afghanistan.

The Afghan bandits are being trained by Chinese instructors in the terrorist training camps set up in Pakistan and are equipped with Chinese weapons including reactive weapons.

These weapons are repeatedly used in Afghanistan time and again, particularly on the populous regions of Kabul. The terrorists who are trained, equipped and armed by Peking are perpetrating murder and other heinous crimes in the DRA.

Why does China, a socialist country, is on the side of the enemies of progress, that is, forces of imperialism perhaps, this is the price it pays for its closeness with Western statesmen perhaps, it is due to this with the West that the People's Republic of China has forgotten its internationalist assistance which it had rendered to Korea in 1950 and in which the Chinese volunteers had eliminated over 195 thousand soldiers and officers of the enemy. [Sentence as received]

They do not want to remember how China had appealed to the Soviet Union for military assistance and how the Soviet military pilots had decisively safeguarded the north eastern regions of the country from the attack of the U.S. Air Forces. The internationalist assistance rendered by the Soviet Union to China under difficult moments was broadly appreciated in that country.

But when such an assistance is rendered by the Soviet Union to Afghanistan it arouses Beijing's wrath. China with its intervention into the internal (?affairs) of Afghanistan all-sidedly collaborates with the United States and Pakistan in their strivings for thwarting the process of a peaceful political solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

However, peace can not prevail on the borders of Afghanistan and China and on the borders of Afghanistan with Pakistan without a political and peaceful solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

Security Forces Crush Rebels, Capture Weapons

LD051625 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Text] A BAKHTAR correspondent, quoting a source of the country's security forces, reports that as a result of successful operations by the security forces in Arghestan District, Qandahar Province, several counterrevolutionaries belonging to the Mawlawi Khales group were crushed and 7 were captured.

The vigilant security forces seized 16 DSHK's, 4 ZK-1 with 500 missiles, a launch unit for surface-to-surface missiles together with 1,000 missiles, 11 recoilless guns with 130 rounds, 2 mortars with 1,100 rounds, 4 rocket launchers with 5,000 boxes of ammunition, 242 assorted weapons, 600 antitank mines, and 2 trucks transporting weapons.

The report adds that during the operation 35 enemy hideouts and 4 food stores were also destroyed.

According to another report, during a successful operation by the security forces in Sorkhrod District, Nangarhar Province, several counterrevolutionaries belonging to the Eslami band were crushed and wounded. The security forces seized 10 surface-to-surface missiles, 4 Kalashnikovs, and several assorted weapons. The report adds that during this operation an enemy clothing depot was also demolished.

Ershad Postpones Official Visit to Thailand

HK050838 Hong Kong AFP in English 0811 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Text] Dhaka, March 5 (AFP) — Bangladesh's President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has postponed a scheduled state visit to Thailand due to begin on March 17, sources here said on Wednesday.

The sources said the visit had been deferred "in view of the president's preoccupation at home."

Lieutenant General Ershad has called parliamentary elections on April 26.

The visit is now likely to take place in May after consulatations between the Thai and Bangladesh Governments, the sources indicated.

Further Reportage on Upcoming Elections

Commission Appoints Officers

BK041024 Dhaka Domestic Service English 0110 GMT 4 Mar 86

[Text] The Election Commission has appointed 64 returning officers and 470 assistant returning officers for conducting the Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament] elections. The elections will be held on the 26th of next month. A gazette notification issued in Dhaka yesterday says that the appointment has been made from various spheres of administration. All the returning officers are the deputy commissioners of 64 districts. Among the assistant returning officers, there are 460 upazila nirbahi [subdistrict executive] officers, 9 district election officers and 1 thana [police station area] education officer.

The Election Commission has already announced the schedule for holding the elections. According to the schedule, the nomination papers are to be received on the 22d of this month; scrutiny will be held on the following day. The last date for the withdrawal of candidature is the 1st of next month.

Opposition Calls Strike

HK050742 Hong Kong AFP in English 0707 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Text] Dhaka, March 5 (AFP) — The Bangladesh opposition called on Wednesday for a six-hour general strike on Saturday to protest against President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's decision to hold parliamentary elections next month.

The two major opposition alliances and the Moslem fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami Party called the strike in separate written statements.

One opposition alliance said in its statement that the programme for the strike had been adopted after a meeting of its 15 component parties presided over by Sheikh Hasina, chief of the Bangladesh Awami League.

The statement said Lieutenant General Ershad's announcement of the elections had "totally disappointed the nation and ignored the opposition demands for holding free and fair polls."

Lt. Gen. Ershad announced on Sunday that parliamentary elections, postponed at least thrice in the past, would be held on April 26. The announcement drew vehement criticism from the opposition, which has demanded that martial law be lifted before any elections.

The other opposition alliance, comprising seven parties, and the Jamaat-e-Islami party echoed the strike call in similar statements.

Opposition To Join if No Martial Law

HK060856 Hong Kong AFP in English 0836 GMT 6 Mar 86

[Text] Dhaka, March 6 (AFP) — Bangladesh's largest opposition alliance has stressed it would join a parliamentary poll set for April 26 only if martial law is lifted first. In its first formal reaction to Sunday's announcement of the date by Hussain Mohammad Ershad, who took over the administration in a bloodless coup in 1982 and named himself president in 1983, the alliance repeated its demand that any poll must be held under a neutral caretaker government.

The statement issued late Wednesday said the 15 parties, led by the Awami League, rejected Lieutenant General Ershad's statement that a constitutional void would result if martial law was withdrawn before the election. "We reiterate our intention to participate in the elections provided the martial law is withdrawn immediately through a proclamation, and measures be taken for a free and fair election," the statement said. The alliance also demanded the annulments of upazila (sub-district) elections and a controversial referendum, both held last year, in which Lt Gen. Ershad claimed "a massive mandate" for his policies. The alliance said that it would go ahead with its movement against the Ershad administration and stage a six-hour general strike Saturday.

Lt. Gen. Ershad, who dissolved parliament when he assumed power, has postponed national polls at least thrice in the face of potential opposition boycotts but said it was unlikely that next month's poll would be put off.

PRC President Li Xiannian To Arrive 8 March

BK041725 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 4 Mar 86

[Text] The Chinese president, Li Xiannian, arrives in Dhaka Saturday next [8 March] on a 4-day state visit to Bangladesh. He will be accompanied by Madam Lin Jiamei and a 15-member high-level entourage. A 24-member press team will also accompany the Chinese president to cover his visit. This will be the second visit by Mr Li to this country, the first was on March 1978 when he came to Dhaka as the vice premier of the Chinese State Council.

Police Clash With Student Demonstrators in Jammu
BK051611 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Text] In Jammu, police had to resort to lathi [baton] charge and tear gas to disperse demonstrating students near Canal Road today. They were demanding the release of all those arrested during the recent incidents in the city. The spokesman said the situation is fully under control and life is completely normal in the city. The day curfew in Srinagar, Jammu, Anantnag, Baramula, and Sopor has been lifted following a steady improvement in the situation. The night curfew is in force as a precautionary measure.

ROK Prime Minister Ends Visit, Leaves for Australia
BK051012 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Text] The South Korean prime minister, Mr Sin-yong No, and his wife were given a warm send-off at the Palam Airport in New Delhi today when they left for Australia at the end of the 4-day official visit to the country. Before leaving Mr No told AIR [All India Radio] correspondent that he is hopeful his visit to India will pave the way for strengthening and deepening the existing relations between the two countries.

70,000 Congress-I Members Detained in West Bengal
HK060752 Hong Kong AFP in English 0735 GMT 6 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 6 (AFP) — More than 70,000 members of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party were temporarily detained Wednesday in the east Indian state of West Bengal, a state party leader was quoted as saying Thursday.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA quoted Priya Ranjan Das Munshi, a Parliament member and chief of the state's Congress Party unit, as saying that the arrested leaders were protesting violence and demanding a revival of the economy in the leftist-ruled state.

The arrested party members, including a federal minister, Sugata Roy, three members of Parliament — Mamata Benerjee, Tarun Kanti Ghosh and Atish Sinha — a former State Assembly speaker Apurba Lal Mazumdar and three Assembly members, were subsequently released on bail, the news agency said.

West Bengal has been ruled by coalition governments of left-wing parties led by the Communist Party of India (Marxist) for about 10 years.

The West Bengal Congress Party had decided early this year to launch a long-term protest against the coalition government's "misrule" as part of an effort to revamp the party's own sagging image in the state.

The decision followed by-elections in December in which the Congress Party lost the state's parliamentary seat of Bolpur to the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and recorded a further decline in its share of the overall vote.

Proposal To Ask Sri Lanka on Refugee Data Examined
BK051028 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Text] Government is examining a proposal to ask the Sri Lanka Government to show the expenses on refugee relief. Giving this information in the Lok Sabha today, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr K.R. Narayanan, said that there were 124,800 refugees came to India till the end of last year following the outbreak of ethnic violence in July 1983. The minister said according to the Tamil Nadu government, 1 crore 76 lakh rupees was spent on relief to repatriates and refugees.

Ziaul Haq Discusses Internal Situation, Kashmir
BK060728 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 6 Mar 86

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has expressed confidence that a unique and exemplary system of government fully based on Islamic principles will emerge from the present parliamentary system in the country. He was speaking at a dinner hosted in his honor by Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan in Islamanad last night. He said that the present assemblies were elected in the name of Islam, therefore, it is incumbent on elected representatives of the people to help pave the way for the establishment of a true Islamic system of government. He added that we should have complete faith in Islam and we should forge unity among our ranks to make Pakistan a strong Islamic state where Islamic values reign supreme. The president emphasized that it is the duty of every patriotic citizen to make the present system successful.

The president reiterated that the National Assembly has expressed its complete confidence in the prime minister. Therefore, the elected representatives of the people should help in creating unity and concensus in the country. The president referred to some elements who are openly expressing their views against the sovereignty of Pakistan and said the National Assembly members should face this challenge.

He also referred to rumors that a difference of opinion exists between the president and prime minister and categorically refuted it, adding that he and the prime minister are working together and with consensus.

Referring to the political activities in the country, the president said that those who had decided to boycott the general elections last year will now have to wait for 5 years. The next elections will be held in 1990 which might be on a party basis. Until then the elected representatives of the people should provide leadership to the people, improve all fields of national activity, remove unemployment, and implement the prime minister's declared 5-point plan.

Turning to the Kashmir issue, the president said it is one of the major disputes between Pakistan and India and the government is determined to resolve this issue peacefully in accordance with the relevent UN resolutions and in the spirit of the Simla Agreement. He pointed out that he had said at a news conference in New Delhi that Kashmir is a major problem between Pakistan and India and that is why nobody should expect that Pakistan will adopt [word indistinct] stand on the Kashmir issue.

Referring to the peace offensive launched by Pakistan 5 years ago, the president said it would continue to follow this policy. He said Pakistan wanted the best of friendly relations with its neighbors but on a basis of equality.

Earlier, Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan congratulated the president and the present government for raising the Kashmir issue again. He also thanked the Pakistan Muslim League for reaffirming its stand on Kashmir. He said if India is sincere in establishing friendly relations with Pakistan, then it should solve the Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN resolutions and on the basis of justice and equality. He again referred to the Kashmiris' attachment to Pakistan and said the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir are ready to make any sacrifice for Pakistan's solidarity and integrity.

Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan, National Assembly Speaker Faqr Imam, Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Siknader Hayat Kha, federal ombudsman, senators, members of National Assembly, and representatives of diplomatic missions were also present at the dinner.

Yaqub Khan Addresses Senate on Adjournment Motion
BK051717 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has reiterated that the government is firm in its policy of establishing good-neighborly, tension-free relations, based on cooperation with India while firmly maintaining its sovereignty and dignity. Speaking on an adjournment motion in the Senate this evening, he said that in his opinion such relations would be in the best interests of the two countries and would help in establishing peace and stability in the region. These objectives can only be achieved when both sides exhibit the same spirit and sincerely follow accepted international norms of bilateral relations. The foreign minister said that the government has carefully reviewed the statements by the Indian foriegn minister in the Lok Sabha and has taken proper steps to clearly apprise the Government of India of its point of view.

The foreign minister said that at a meeting between President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on 17 December an understanding was reached with India not to attack each other's nuclear installations. After the meeting, both leaders announced this understanding at a joint press conference. The foreign minister made it clear that this understanding is on record without a (?written) agreement. At the meeting of foreign secretaries of the two countries in January of this year, a draft agreement was given final shape as a text. Only two paragraphs in the preamble remain to be put in final form, so the statement by the Indian foreign minister that there is some difference of opinion between the two countries on this topic is not correct.

On the Siachen Glacier, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said the stand of the Government of Pakistan in the past and at present is the same — that this area is under Pakistan's control on historic grounds. The decision of the Government of India to send military forces into the Siachen area is not justifiable. The defense secretaries of the two countries met earlier in January and are scheduled to meet again in April. The foreign minister expressed the opinion that neither party should make provocative statements that would adversely affect the outcome of these talks. He said that with good intentions Pakistan firmly adheres to the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries. He said that, unfortunately, whenever the situation in India worsens the Indian Government tries to implicate foreign countries and thrust the problems on others. He rejected the allegations of the Indian foreign minister in this connection. After the statement of the foreign minister, Islamabad Senator Maulana Kauser Niazi did not press on his motion.

NWFP Senators Abdul Latiff and Kazi Hussain Ahmed and Baluchistan Senator Abdul Rahim Mir Dad Khel also did not press for their motions on firing by Indian forces on the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir after the statement of Minister of State for Food and Agriculture Sartaj Azis. The minister of state told the house that a protest was lodged through the UN observers group in this connection. The chairman rejected as sub judice identical motions offered by Abdurrahim Mirdad Khel, Kazi Abdul Latiff, and Kazi Hussain Ahmed on firing by Afghan forces on the Khyber Rifles.

Opposing these motions, Interior Minister Mohammad Aslam Khan Khattack said that such firing is an everyday affair and attempts are being made to incite us daily. He added that retalliation is not our policy. He reiterated that the government wants to resolve the Afghan problem politically in such a manner that the Afghan refugees can return home with dignity and security and foreign forces can be withdrawn from Afghanistan.

Interior Minister Assures Protection of Minorities
BK050239 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Text] The National Assembly was told yesterday evening that the people belonging to minority groups are as honorable citizens as any others in the country and the government is taking all posible steps to protect the life, property, and honor of minorities.

Speaking on identical adjournment motions moved by Seth Chaman Das and Bhagwan Das, representing minorities, and Sheikh Rashid Ahmed of Rawalpindi on recent violent incidents in Jacobabad and Sukkur, the interior minister, Mohammad Aslam Khan Khattack, said that the provincial government is fully aware of its responsibilities and the prime minister has further directed that special consideration be given so that no such incident is repeated.

After the interior minister's statement the movers did not press their motion.

Two Killed in Bomb Explosion Near Afghan Border
BK060607 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 6 Mar 86

[Text] According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN two people were killed and 12 others injured in a bomb explosion in (Sadda Bazar) of the Kurram Agency.

SRI LANKA

Diplomats in Delhi Support Colombo Statement

BK051133 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Text] Sri Lanka's reply to last week's statement in the Indian Parliament by External Affairs Minister Bali Ram Bhagat had made a considerable impact among New Delhi's large diplomatic community, according to Colombo based diplomats. Reports reaching Colombo said yesterday that some of the diplomats had indicated their sympathy and udnerstanding of Sri Lanka's position.

Foreign Ministry sources said that High Commissioner Bernard Tilakaratne in New Delhi had reported to Colombo that many heads of Delhi-based missions were anxious to have the full text of the statement. The high commissioner had, therefore, distributed copies to all missions in Delhi.

Asserting how the Indian media had handled Colombo's response to Mr Bhagat's remarks, Mr Tilakaratne had reported that there had been wide coverage in the Indian press, with most dailies front paging it in their Sunday edition. The INDIAN EXPRESS editorially chided India's foreign minister, Mr Bhagat, for making statement that were better avoided. It said that the overheated rhetoric in both houses of Parliament on the ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka last week was hardly conducive to a rational settlement of the problem. It [words indistinct] foreign minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat into making the statement.

Meanwhile, the recent statement of the Indian foreign minister, Mr Bhagat, on Sri Lanka was debated in Parliament, adjourned yesterday. The acting minister of foreign affairs, Tyronne Fernando, who wound up the debate said that, although Sri Lanka had since 1983 presented facts to India relating to the terrorists based in Tamil Nadu, there has been no reaction from India. The terrorists continue to enjoy several facilities in south India. The minister noted that this could cause a strain in good relations between India and Sri Lanka. He added that the government had consistently sought a political solution to the problem. He concluded that the president will continue to act in a cordial manner toward the Indian prime minister in regard to this problem.

Security Forces Launch Operations Against 'Terrorists'

Recover Arms, Ammunition

BK011105 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] In Kilonochchi, security forces yesterday conducted a search for a suspective terrorist hideout and recovered a large quanity of arms and ammunition. When the troops were returning to camps, they were fired upon by terrorists using mortars and small arms without any concern to the civilian population. Three mortars fell on the roof of Fatima school at (?Uruvidamguram) causing panic among school children. Some of them were injured. Two parents, who had come to collect their children, also received injury.

Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that the section of [words indistinct] terrorists escaped into the jungle. It is believed that the terrorists had suffered severe casualties.

7 'Terrorists' Captured

BK021129 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 2 Mar 86

[Text] Six terrorists were captured by the security forces at Vavuniya in the north of Sri Lanka on Wednesday [26 February]. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that they had also started (?a case) where the terrorists had attempted to bury a landmine. Reports from LANKA PUWATH also say that Marxist terrorists had fired in the direction of the security forces camp in Vaddukkoddai in Mullaittivu. The security forces returned the fire forcing the terrorists to flee. However, one terrorist was captured, and he is being (?interrogated).

1 'Terrorist' Killed

BK031052 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 3 Mar 86

[Text] One terrorist was killed, 15 others believed injured, and 5 others captured by the security forces in Batticaloa in the eastern province yesterday. According to LANKA PUWATH, a terrorist had opened fire at the security forces at a place called (ichantivu). Security forces returned the fire in a 30-minute exchange. About 60 terrorists had made aboard [as heard] in 6 boats and crossed the Batticaloa Lagoon and fled into the jungle.

2 Killed, 3 Injured in Mine Explosion 3 Mar

BK041152 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 4 Mar 86

[Text] Two naval personnel were killed and three injured in an explosion on the Nagadipe pier in northern Sri Lanka yesterday. According to the National Security Ministry, the damage was caused by a surface mine. However, in India terrorists groups based there claimed that the mine (?was) placed underwater and that 12 Sri Lankan Navy men had been killed. Sources in Colombo said that the naval personnel were in a small boat carrying rations to the department at Nagadipe when the blast occurred. This is the first time that a boat has been attacked in this pattern.

Terrorist Incidents of 2-3 Mar Reported

BK051136 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Text] Marxist terrorists kidnapped a Tamil named (Krishna Pillai Kanagasuriya) of Tirukkovil, Amparai, in the eastern Sri Lanka last Sunday [2 March]. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that he was later shot head and tied to a lamppost.

A Tamil Marxist terrorist attacked Navy men with guise of fishermen at Kachchativu last Sunday. The Navy personnel

repulsed the attack, killing one terrorist. The fishermen in the area saw three terrorists fleeing toward an Indian patrol craft.

LANKA PUWATH also reports that Marxist terrorists opened fire at Nayinativu on security forces' detachment on Monday evening using mortars. Soon after, two Navy members were killed and three other Navy personnel were injured when a surface mine was set off by the terrorists alongside a pier at Nainativu.

Tamils Reportedly Abduct Over 125 Village Officials
HK051132 Hong Kong AFP in English 1122 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Text] Colombo, March 5 (AFP) — Armed militant Tamil separatists abducted more than 125 village officials attending a meeting in northern Sri Lanka Wednesday, residents said.

The officials had gathered at the district administrative office to select a delegation to meet authorities for a discussion of security questions in northern Jaffna, residents said.

The militants turned up in three vehicles, ordered the officials in at gun-point and drove away with them, the sources said. There was no information on the fate of the men abducted.

Security sources confirmed that only two of an expected 65 officials had showed up at a meeting scheduled later with military incidents.

Earlier Wednesday the National Security Ministry said three people were killed when a fire fight erupted between Tamil separatists and security forces in Nainativu Island off the northern coast on Monday.

But residents of Northern Province said at least six people had died when security forces attacked Tamil residents after the militants had killed two sailors and wounded seven in a surface mine explosion near the Nainativu pier.

According to the National Security Ministry, the militants had attacked the security forces after killing the sailors and they had weilded small arms, rocket propelled grenades and incendiary shells.

Some of the shells fired by the militants fell on a Hindu temple, setting alight three festival chariots and some temporary buildings, the ministry said.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said two men and a youth were killed and one woman wounded in the crossfire and that the government would repair the chariots at its expense.

Imam Khomeyni Meets With Ayatollah Montazeri

GF060502 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 6 Mar 86

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, His Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri met Imam Khomeyni last night and discussed various matters with him.

Musavi Criticizes GCC on Oil Issue, Support for Iraq

GF060604 Tehran International Service in Arabic
0400 GMT 6 Mar 86

[Text] At the conclusion of the Cabinet meeting yesterday, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi made a statement to our correspondent referring to an oil price reduction conspiracy in which some GCC countries are participating. He said that these countries have always supported and aided Saddam's regime to the best of their ability and placed their petrodollars at the service of this regime. They also laid oil pipelines on behalf of Saddam's regime. They conspired with the United States to strike at oil prices and reduce them.

The prime minister added: After meeting with Japanese officials, U.S. State Department officials said that the United States opposes intervention by countries in the issue of the oil prices. At the same time a Saudi oil official was visiting Japan. It is perfectly clear from this that oil prices could not possibly have fallen without coordination with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Even if there is opposition from other OPEC oil-producing countries, the GCC countries totally cooperate with the United States.

Regarding the latest GCC stand on the war that has been imposed on us, the prime minister said: All these countries have supported Saddam from the beginning and are now continuing their support for him under the veil of GCC security.

The prime minister added: This council actually should be called the council for cooperation with the United States. He said that the GCC has done certain things that are in line with U.S. policy.

Referring to the final statement issued by the latest GCC meeting which urged an end to the war, the prime minister addressed the rulers of the GCC countries: Do you not realize that you are facing a revolution that has roots in all countries, and that the populations of your countries are less than that of Tehran alone?

Musavi added: The people of the GCC member-countries are people who profess Islam and support the Islamic revolution. It is certain that these people do not support those shaykhs and individuals who participate in international conspiracies that are aimed at reducing oil prices and do all they can to protect Saddam. Such stands will only lead to further pressures on them.

The prime minister added: I declare again that it is not in the interest of these countries to link their fate with that of Saddam. We will not make the least bargain with Saddam's regime. Pointing out that the war was imposed on the Islamic Republic, he stressed: The goal of the war is clear. We will remain steadfast until the end to achieve final victory. The best proof of this is the steadfastness of our heroes on all fronts.

In conclusion, Musavi addressed Saddam's defenders: You must realize that you are sitting on top of a volcano represented by the people's anger with you and their looking up to the Islamic revolution.

Kuwait Diplomat Denies Giving Aid to Iraq

LD051757 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Text] In an interview given to a Central News Unit correspondent a Kuwaiti diplomat expressed anxiety about the widening of the Iran-Iraq war on a regional level and called for an end to this war. This Kuwaiti diplomat, who was not willing to be publicly identified, said: Kuwait is intensely worried about the continuation and expansion of the war, since this war might possibly threaten our security.

During the interview, he was asked: Why have you helped Iraq in perpetrating aggression against Iran? He replied: We have not given Iraq any help and none of our ports are at Iraq's disposal; we have only provided Iraq with a transit route.

He was asked: What goods are being carried along this transit route to Iraq and where are these goods loaded? He answered: Since the beginning of the war Saudi Arabia has placed two ports in the eastern part of the country at the disposal of the Iraqi Government and from these ports military consignments, industrial goods, and foodstuffs are dispatched to Iraq.

Velayati Receives Libyan Charge for Talks

LD051316 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA — The Libyan Charge d'affaires to Tehran 'Abdallah Fadil Tuesday met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati for talks on the imposed Iraqi war and U.S. threats against the Libyan Government.

In the meeting Fadil said several Arab heads of states had asked the Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, to try to stop the Iranian offensive in Iraqi soil but he had told then that his country supports Iran in bringing down the Iraqi regime.

Fadil said "Iran does not want any Arab land. The push of the Iranian forces into Iraqi soil was to bring down the Baghdad regime."

On U.S. threats against the government in Tripoli Fadil said the Libyan Air Force will shoot down any plane that crosses into their territory from the Mediterranean or the southern state of Chad.

The foreign minister of the Islamic Republic told the Libyan diplomat that Iran supports Libya against the U.S. threats.

FRG Parliamentarian Stercken Departs Tehran

LD051425 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA — The visiting West German parliamentarian, Hans Stercken left here Wednesday at end of

a three-day visit to Tehran and meetings with high ranking officials.

During his stay Hans Stercken met with the Majlis speaker, Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and some Majlis deputies.

He also met with hospitalized Iranian combatants wounded by Iraqi chemical bombs in the course of recent Iranian offensives and visited historical monument in Esfahan which were attacked by Iraqi war planes.

In his meetings with Iranian officials, the West German parliamentarian discussed the Iraqi-imposed war and other political issues of the region.

He has condemned the Iraqi regime for violating international conventions including deployment of chemical weapons and attack on an Iranian passenger plane.

Gulf Ports Exporting for Iraq 'Legitimate Targets'
GF060912 Tehran International Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 6 Mar 86

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper *KEYHAN AL-'ARABI* publishes an article under the title: "Deterrence Is the Only Solution." The article says: The warnings by Iranian officials that any Gulf location that exports oil or acts in the service of the Iraqi war effort will be a legitimate target for our Islamic forces must be taken very seriously by Gulf and international circles, particularly in the present circumstances.

The Iraqi-Saudi Arabian Neutral Zone, from which oil continues to be exported on behalf of Iraq, is not the only area to which our Islamic forces are close; any Gulf location or any port that exports oil or receives anything that finances the war of aggression will be a target for the attacks of the Islamic forces.

The paper goes on: Why do we repeat our emphasis and warning on this issue? This is because hostile intentions which have begun to appear recently on the Gulf, Arab, and international levels, indicate a distinctive state of declaration of war against us, and consequently the parties which are behind these intentions must be ready to bear the full consequences.

Actually, the concerned parties may have already seen part of the consequences resulting from their involvement in the war. However, they so far have not received the full share of the deterrence which they deserve.

If the hostile parties in the Persian Gulf region have already perceived a part of what we had frequently and repeatedly warned about, then it is perfectly all right to continue to implement the firm language of force and deterrence until the end. If there are those who have no mercy on themselves, should we remain committed to have mercy on them?

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Views GCC Statement on War
GF051413 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1200 GMT 5 Mar 86

[*JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* editorial: "The Peninsula Shield, or a Scarecrow?" published on 5 March — from the "Press Review" program]

[Excerpts] In their statement, the members of the GCC have strongly called for an end to the war through negotiations rather than by crushing the aggressors. They stress that, should the war expand, they would defend the oil-producing region of the Persian Gulf. The statement also called upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to remove the victorious forces of the army of Islam from Iraqi soil and condemns the entry of the forces of Islam into Iraq. This entry was undertaken to crush and punish the aggressor.

This statement is considered a supportive document and the members of the GCC should be certain that it would be given due consideration in future relations. The warriors of Islam entered Iraq to crush the aggressor Iraqis and to punish war criminals. They will stay there until their goals are reached. The Islamic Republic of Iran has clearly stated in this respect that it has no designs on Iraqi soil and believes that the destiny of Iraq should be determined by its people. However, it is the certain right of the warriors of Islam to enter Iraq to crush the Iraqi aggressors, punish the war criminals, topple the Ba'thist Iraqi regime, and, with full authority, establish their logical conditions.

If the shaykhdoms on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf wish to state that they are against aggression, they should have clearly assumed their position at the start of the all-out aggression of the Iraqi Ba'thist army against Islamic Iran and condemned the occupation of a major portion of four Iranian border provinces. If the regional shaykhs wanted a political solution to the war, they should never have concentrated their efforts on increasing the military ability of the Iraqi aggressors. This action shows that, by encouraging and arming the aggressor, they tried to create Iraqi military superiority. However, they were unsuccessful and unable to do anything.

Thus, the members of the GCC are not against the nature of aggression. Their opposition is to the direct efforts of the warriors of Islam to topple the regime of Baghdad. In other words, the concern of the regional courts is over the imminent fall of Saddam. Hence, they wish to give further support to the regime of Baghdad by issuing worthless statements such as the one issued in Riyadh. Naturally such (?moves) will have no effect. Their efforts are useless and it is not to the benefit of any of the courts of the region to tie their destiny with that of the war criminals ruling Iraq. GCC members have so far continued to try to strengthen the military power of the Ba'thist army and it seems that they are also concerned with their own destiny as well. The clear answer by Islamic Iran in this respect has always been that, should the courts of the region be concerned with their own situation, they can seperate their account with that of the war criminals and pull themselves out of the perilous situation. However, if there are those who wish to cooperate with the regime of Saddam until the final moment of its collapse, then naturally a painful destiny awaits them.

This is not a threat, it is a statement of fact for which all proof is present. It should not be forgotten that with respect to the countries on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf — even though they are united when it comes to words or statements — when the situation becomes serious and action is needed, the certainty exists that they will leave the scene. They will not consider it to their advantage to enter a perilous situation which is against their own interests.

Even the Kuwaiti court, if it is realistic, should praise the good intentions of Islamic Iran and the responsible actions of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. If it were not for the increasing political pressure by Iran and if Iranian officials in Tehran had not issued their timely warning about the three Kuwaiti islands, particularly Bubiyan, the Iraqi Ba'thists would have swallowed them by now and, having established its position there, would have claimed sovereignty over them. In such a case, the warriors of Islam would have taken action and pulled these islands out of the throat of the aggressors. The difference being that what the warriors of Islam would have taken from the Ba'thist aggressors would have been considered war booty that would have remained in the hands of the army of Islam.

The possibility still exists that, considering the illogical remarks of Kuwaiti official, such a situation may arise. Islamic Iran has issued its serious warning in this respect and has expressed hope that the Kuwaiti court will come to realize the depth of its crisis. In any case, the possibility still exists. To understand the point that they are investing their existence in the war, while the transoceanic supporters of Saddam have only invested their interest, is important to the courts of the region, particularly to Kuwait. This means that, in the not too distant future, the shaykhs of the region will have to accept a new development in Iraq — the fall of Saddam and the tribe of war criminals. Woe unto those regimes who have tied their existance with the maintenance of this bloody regime.

If the courts of the region rely on the Peninsula Shield and similar rubbish and assume that they can continue to increase their investment in maintaining the war criminals without any danger, they should realize that the size of each recent theater of operation of the warriors of Islam exceeds the size of some of the countries. They cannot truly rely on Peninsula Shield or any other defense. The Ba'thist army was established in the south, behind unscalable defenses and it believed that the south was the safest part of the fronts. However, everyone saw that the moment the warriors of Islam decided to capture them, they were on the other side of the same obstacles where they suffocated the Ba'thist army with their capable hands.

The presence of the warriors of Islam, contrary to the GCC statement, is not in itself a threat against the security of the countries of the region. However, if the shaykhs of the region believe that they can hide behind the Peninsula Shield and continue their stupid activities, they should know that the warriors of Islam do not think of any obstacle when it comes time to show their might against any bold and impudent supporters of the Ba'thist army.

The Peninsula Shield is only a scarecrow and if such scarecrows could do anything, Saddam would not be in his present predicament. Our final word is that anyone who wishes to be out of this predicament should quickly seperate his accounts from that of Saddam.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Ship Sunk

LD051102 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Text] Here is a report from Khatam ol-Anbiya', joint operations center of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps:

In continuation of the victorious "Val-Fajr-8" operations, warriors of the Navy of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps today opened crushing fire from shore on two modern warships belonging to the defeated Iraqi army in Khawr 'Abdallah waters. Inflicting heavy losses on the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi forces, the shelling sank one of the warships with all its crew and sent them to the depths of the Khawr 'Abdallah. In that clash the other warship also suffered heavy damage and losses, and a number of its crew were killed.

Iraqi Wounded Treated in Kuwait

LD051354 Tehran IRNA in English 1327 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Text] London, March 5, IRNA — A group of wounded Iraqi soldiers have been hospitalized in Kuwait, because Iraqi hospitals can no longer admit wounded soldiers.

A foreign diplomat told IRNA that some 370 wounded Iraqi militarymen have been sent to a hospital belonging to the 15th brigade of the Kuwaiti Army. The diplomat who asked to remain anonymous, said four of the Iraqis died of severe wounds on March 1st.

Another group of wounded Iraqi soldiers have already undergone treatment in the Kuwaiti Al-Jahra Hospital.

Communique No 2400

LD051606 Tehran IRNA in English 1549 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA — The city of Ganaveh in Hormozgan Province was bombarded by intruding Iraqi warplanes Wednesday, according to a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Wednesday.

In its Communique Number 2400, the command says that Iranian Muslim combatants responded to Iraqi artillery fire in the western fronts Tuesday killing and wounding at least 15 Iraqi soldiers and destroying several gun emplacements and three of their vehicles.

In the northwestern fronts, the command says, Iranian forces attacked Iraqi defensive positions liberating 14 square kms and stationed themselves in the pre-determined heights.

A large number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded, several enemy gun emplacements and four vehicles were demolished and one tank and two mortar launchers were seized by the Iranian combatants during the attack, says the communique.

In the southern fronts, the communique says, Iranian forces fortified their positions and dispatched patrol units to predetermined locations capturing one Iraqi soldier.

The Joint Staff communique says that Iran's Muslim troops thwarted all threats of the Iraqi forces throughout the warfronts and forced Iraqi war planes violating the airspace of Kian Dasht to flee.

The movements of Iraqi vehicle columns and operations of their armoured units around Mehran, Hoseyniyeh, Yebis, were severely checked and shelled by Iranian forces resulting in heavy casualties and losses on Iraqi forces.

Meanwhile, the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province was sporadically hit by Iraqi long-range artillery fire Tuesday causing damage to some houses.

More Volunteers Sent to Fronts
LD051744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Our correspondent sent us the following report on the dispatch of the second division of volunteer peoples forces from the provincial city of Qazvin to the battlefronts of good against evil:

Simultaneous with the glorious conquests of Islam's combatants in the "Val-Fajr-8" and "Val-Fajr-9" operations, this afternoon the Second Fajr Division from the city of Qazvin, made up from peoples volunteer forces and redispatched Basij and IRGC forces from this city, left for the country's war zones in order to join the ranks of other Islamic combatants on the battlefronts of good against evil. The members of this division, bearing green and red flags chanted the slogans: "War, War, Till Victory," "Death to the USA," and "Death to Saddam." They expressed their firm resolve to fight the Iraqi Ba'thist forces and world arrogance.

According to the same report the Imam's representative, the Friday imam of Qazvin and various segments of the people and their families attended the send-off ceremonies for these dear ones.

'Important Leaders' Killed
LD051817 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Text] According to a report from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the joint operational center of the Islamic revolution of Iran's Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Islam's epic making troops opened heavy, long-range artillery fire, — unprecedented throughout the history of war — on the Shu'aybah air base, southwest of Basrah, and the (?Durayhamiyah) garrison, Saddam's command headquarters. While inflicting deadly blows at the enemy in these two areas, they killed a number of important leaders of the Iraqi Ba'thist Army.

Also according to the same report, in a series of sorties, the fast-flying pilots of the Islamic revolution of Iran Air Force intensely bombed enemy troop assembly points and equipment on the Al-Faw-Basrah motorway and inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the enemy.

Sitak Garrison Destroyed
LD051831 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Text] Reports received from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center for joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, say that, at about 1000 this morning the combatants of Islam opened intensive fire on Sitak garrison inside Iraq in the "Val-Fajr-9" operational area. All enemy ammunition depots inside the garrison were destroyed and the sound of loud explosions and resulting smoke could be seen and heard for a few hours afterwards. This heavy barrage also destroyed the enemy's motor pool and a large number of Ba'thist mercenaries were killed. The weakened enemy tried to escape from this garrison but a number of their vehicles were hit by the intensive fire of our forces. The garrison was eventually completely deserted, so much so that no traffic or movement can be seen in the garrison or the region.

Commentary on Iraq's 'Crimes' Against Kurds
GF051241 Tehran International Service in Turkish
1830 GMT 4 Mar 86

[Unattributed commentary: "The Unchangeable Divine Laws for Eliminating Criminals"]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, according to information received from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, in addition to the reports that Islamic fighters have approached as close as 18 km to Al-Sulaymaniyah in Iraq and are establishing themselves in the areas they liberated, the fighters in the operations region in southern Iraq have placed the lands they captured during the "Val-Fajr-8" operation under full control. In fact, in a sudden attack on enemy positions in the vicinity of Iraq's [name indistinct] lake and the strategic axis between Al-Faw and Basra on the night of 2 March, the Islamic fighters eliminated at least another 500 Saddamist troops.

Although the Islamic fighters have achieved success in the "Val-Fajr-8" and "Val-Fajr-9" operations, the reports received from reliable sources in northern Iraq in connection with the struggle waged by Muslims in Iraq's northern districts add to the importance of the situation. Reports from Al-Sulaymaniyah say that the people of the city of Al-Sulaymaniyah and those of the towns and villages affiliated to it greatly rejoiced over the recent news about the victories scored by the Islamic fighters. In fact, they handed out sugar candy in the streets and congratulated each other over the victories. The Muslims in the northern

districts of Iraq and the people of Al-Sulaymaniyah have described their reaction as one stemming from the Zionist Iraqi Ba'thist regime's oppression of the people of the region and from its pressures and massacres.

Let us now talk about the population in northern Iraq. Iraq has 1.5 million Kurds. This figure constitutes about 15 percent of the general population. They generally live in three districts — Irbil, Al-Sulaymaniyah, and Dahuk. The Zionist Iraqi Ba'thist regime's crimes against the Kurds and the latest developments in Iraq's northern districts can be further clarified in the event the Islamic forces continue their advance in the future. What is interesting, however, is the fact that foreign news agencies, particularly those in the West, which have been siding with the Zionist Iraqi Ba'thist regime, have been left with no other alternative but to admit a number of realities concerning Iraq's Kurdish region.

The broadening of the opposition moves against the Iraqi regime in the northern districts led to the bombardment of the city of Irbil by Iraqi military aircraft in December 1985 — a move which resulted in the death of about 100 people. In a statement it issued during the same month, the Iraqi regime seriously threatened the people of Al-Sulaymaniyah by warning them that the killing of a Ba'th Party member or a policeman or soldier loyal to the Iraqi regime would result in the punishment by firing squad of the entire population of the quarter where the incident occurred.

While Islamic fighters approach Al-Sulaymaniyah, there are strengthening reports and rumors that the Iraqi regime has placed mines around the city and that Iraqi military aircraft would bombard Al-Sulaymaniyah because of the jubilant ceremonies organized by the Muslim people to mark the latest victories scored by the Islamic fighters.

It can be said that history rarely witnessed the existence of such a regime which has committed so many crimes and massacres and exerted so much pressure. Obviously, there are numerous cruel regimes in history like the Saddam regime. [sentence as heard] And, those who extend aid to such regimes are accomplices in the crimes they commit.

Free Voice Claims Relations With Syria Strained

GF021820 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 2 Mar 86

[Text] According to a Syrian weekly *AL-TAHRIR*, the export of Iranian oil to Damascus had been suspended over the past 2 months and Hafiz al-Asad informed the foreign ministers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia of this. According to experts, the halt to the export of Iranian oil to Syria is because Damascus has not paid Iran and oil prices on the international markets have dropped with the concomitant dwindling of Iranian oil exports.

According to Western observers in Bahrain, the ties between Iran and Syria have become rather tepid over the past few weeks. The real cause of this can be attributed to the stoppage of Iranian oil supplies to Syria and the Islamic Republic's interference in Lebanon. The same weekly states: The four weekly flights between Tehran and Damascus have now been reduced to one per week.

Mujahidin Operations in Northern Afghanistan Noted

LD282307 Tehran IRNA in English 1558 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] London, Feb. 28, IRNA — The mujahideen have been continuing their guerrilla operations in the northern provinces of Afghanistan lying close to the Soviet Union.

According to reports received from Konduz and Takhar Provinces the mujahideen's swift operations killed 18 Soviet Karmal troops while a tank was damaged. A report said that the mujahideen struck at an army post in the sub divisional headquarters of Khvajeh Ghar north of Taloqan, as well as that of Takhar Province on February 2.

Led by the mujahideen commander of Hizb-e-Islami Jamur Nur Ahmad, they killed 11 Soviet Karmal troops and injured many others while two mujahids were injured.

On the other hand a report received from Konduz Province said that the mujahideen clashed with a Soviet Karmal mobile force near Khanabad town and a tank was smashed by rocket fires. During the clash which occured on February 6, a mujahid was seriously injured.

Correction to Iravani Meets SFRY's Vlajkovic

The following correction to the item subheaded "Meets President Vlajkovic," published in the 5 March South Asia DAILY REPORT on page I 2, is supplied by Tehran IRNA in English at 1416 GMT on 5 March:

Paragraph eight, line one should read: ...stood at about 600 million dollars for... (changing "6000" to "600")